

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

AGENDA ITEM

Institution Performance Reviews and Planning Sessions
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 10, 2004

DESCRIPTION

Background

Over the past two years, the Department of Higher Education has worked to update and implement strategies designed to improve the return on the state's investment in higher education. Two main components of this effort include reviewing the ways we measure success in higher education and upgrading our methods of monitoring our performance on these measures.

In terms of measures of success, during the fall of 2002, DHE began discussions with institutions about the measures previously used during annual mission review meetings to monitor institutional performance. In April 2003, the board adopted a set of priority outcomes and the quality principles, both of which have driven departmental planning since that time. Each year, the board reviews its priority outcomes during its planning retreat.

In addition to this attention to its highest priority results, the CBHE has asked DHE staff to review and renew our means of reviewing performance on these measures, and other issues, with institutions. The annual mission review meetings held with DHE and institution leaders during the summer from 1994 through 2001 fulfilled this role during that time. Because of the expected lack of new mission enhancement funding upon the onset of the recent budget shortfall, these meetings were not held in 2002 or 2003.

However, regardless of the prospects for additional state funding for higher education, CBHE members have expressed the belief that such sessions represent an opportunity for valuable interaction on important issues between the DHE and higher education institutions. Issues reviewed at previous sessions included institutional strategic planning, review of performance measures, mission enhancement funding, institutional budget proposals and new legislative, administrative and policy initiatives.

The commissioner recently sent the attached letter to institution presidents and chancellors seeking their guidance and input about structuring a new round of such sessions so they might be most useful to CBHE and DHE, as well as the institutions. Feedback received in time will be shared during the June 10 meetings.

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Next Steps

Based on discussions and other input received during the June 10 meetings, DHE staff will develop a proposed structure and format, as well as data presentations for these meetings, which would be held beginning in July.

STATUTORY REFERENCE

Section 173.020, RSMo, CBHE statutory responsibility to plan systematically for the state higher education system

Section 173.030(7) and (8), RSMo, pertaining to the board's statutory authority to undertake mission review of the state's public four-year colleges and universities every five years

Section 178.673(1) and (2), RSMo, pertaining to the board's statutory responsibility to develop five-year plan for Linn State Technical College and the state's system of postsecondary technical and community college education

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is a discussion item only.

ATTACHMENT

Letter to president and chancellors, two- and four-year public higher education institutions

TO: Presidents and Chancellors, Two- and Four-Year Public Higher Education Institutions

FROM: Quentin Wilson, Commissioner of Higher Education

DATE: May 28, 2004

SUBJECT: Institution Performance Reviews and Planning Sessions

As you know, Department of Higher Education (DHE) staff members engage in frequent discussions with you and your designees about our common efforts to enhance Missouri's system of higher education. As part of this process, the department conducts frequent reviews of academic programs and finances, among other issues.

In previous years, DHE staff conducted mission review meetings with institution leaders during the summer months. These meetings offered both you and DHE staff an opportunity for a very intense discussion about issues relating to institutional strategic planning, review of performance measures, mission enhancement funding, institutional budget proposals and new legislative, administrative and policy initiatives, among others.

Even without new mission enhancement or performance excellence funding, I believe such annual meetings would still be beneficial, both to the department and your institution. I've recently visited with several college and university leaders who expressed an interest in regenerating some form of these planning meetings. Some with whom I've spoken have suggested that the information exchange and discussion in such planning meetings would help achieve the following objectives:

1. Enhancing mutual understanding of institutional and statewide priorities, processes and performance;
2. Encouraging greater collaboration in developing and achieving common goals; and
3. Reviewing and strengthening evidence about the impact of investments in higher education that fosters more effective legislative and budget initiatives.

With the renewal of increased state investment in higher education this year, now is the right time to build a more powerful case for the effective investment of additional funding in the coming years.

Because of the investment of time and focused attention required for these meetings, I'd like your input about how to structure these events to be most useful. I look forward to discussing these meetings as a group at both the June 9 MCCA and COPHE meetings and at the June 10 Presidential Advisory meeting, but I would like to know in advance of any comments, questions or suggestions you might want me to address at these meetings.

Thank you for your input.